

Let me add that a significant result of accession to the EU by a united Cyprus would be that Turkish Cypriots would then be part of a Cypriot delegation to Brussels, one way of ensuring that Cyprus would not be hostile to Turkey.

Now, I believe most of us would agree that it is unlikely—one never says “never”—that there will be a sudden accord on an issue that for so long has eluded resolution by so many. Moreover, a breakthrough is probably not possible until after the elections in Cyprus in February. Nonetheless, it is important to begin laying the groundwork now, and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's talks with Clerides and Denktash are part of this process as Sir David Hannay observed in a thoughtful essay in yesterday's International Herald Tribune (“At Long Last, Cyprus Should Seize the Chance to Heal Itself”). For we must build bridges today for action next spring.

NORMALIZING GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS

With the end of the Cold War has come the possibility of resolution of many long-simmering conflicts. As we observe in the Middle East and Northern Ireland, however, not to speak of the on-going drama in the former Yugoslavia, it is not easy. Nonetheless, the rest of the world is moving toward solving difficult problems. The North Koreans have agreed to four-power talks aimed at formally ending the Korean War. The Indians and Pakistanis are discussing Kashmir. Formerly Communist states are being brought into NATO. China may be beginning to communicate with the United States in more rational terms.

Surely it is time for Greece and Turkey to normalize their relationship even as did France and Germany under de Gaulle and Adenauer, thereby paving the way to progress for both.

The report that this past Tuesday (July 8), Greece and Turkey, in what the Financial Times described as “the biggest breakthrough in their strained relations for a decade . . . pledged to respect one another's sovereign rights and renounce the use of force in dealing with each other” is solid evidence of what the FT also called “strong pressure from the US.” The statement by Greek Prime Minister Constantine Simitis and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, the consequence of Secretary Albright's determined efforts, concluded the FT, “set a favourable tone for the high-level talks over the future of Cyprus which start near New York today.”

And surely, I reiterate, key to the relationship between Greece and Turkey is Cyprus. Settlement, during the year ahead, of an issue over two decades old would obviously be a major triumph for US foreign policy, for Europe, for Greece, and, most important, for all the people of Cyprus.

A CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY AND RECONCILIATION IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

Now, if I have not exhausted you, I must tell you briefly of one other development that I believe relates directly to what I have been saying but goes still farther.

My own involvement in this effort is spurred in large part by my chairing the National Endowment for Democracy.

The National Endowment for Democracy, or NED, as we call it, is one of the principal vehicles through which American Presidents, Senators and Representatives of both political parties seek to promote free, open and democratic societies. Founded in 1983 by a Republican president, Ronald Reagan, and a Democratic Congress, the National Endowment for Democracy is a nonpartisan, nongovernmental organization that, through grants to private entities in other countries, champions, like your Westminster Founda-

tion, the institutions of democracy. NED grants are made to organizations dedicated to promoting the rule of law, free and fair elections, a free press, human rights and the other components of a genuinely democratic culture.

A planning group for the center

The project of which I want to say a particular word is the Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeastern Europe, which my colleagues and I hope to establish beginning in early 1998.

In cooperation with my friend known to many of you, Costa Carras, a businessman and historian of much wisdom and a deep sense of public responsibility, and Matthew Nimetz, a distinguished lawyer who served as Counselor and Under Secretary of State during the Carter Administration and as President Clinton's Special Envoy in the 1994-1995 mediation between Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), I convened last year a group to draw up plans to create what we called a Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeastern Europe.

Following earlier discussions of the idea of such a center at conferences in Thessaloniki; Washington, D.C.; New York City; and at Ditchley Park, our group met last November in Lyon. The Planning Group, chaired by Ambassador Nimetz, is composed of persons from Southeastern Europe, Western Europe and the United States, nearly all of whom have expert knowledge of the region as well as experience in business and government. Unlike other organizations active in the Balkans, the Center will be directed by a board a majority of whose members are from the region itself. That people from Greece, Turkey, Romania, FYROM, Serbia and elsewhere are joining to establish the Center will give it credibility and relevance that US or West European based organizations cannot attain.

Mission of the center

The Center will devote attention to the fields of education and market institutions as well as to the practices of a pluralist democratic society, such as a strong and independent judiciary, free and responsible media, vigorous nongovernmental organizations, and effective and accountable central administrations—with active parliamentary institutions—and local governments.

We anticipate that the Center will have its administrative headquarters in Thessaloniki, Greece, which has excellent transportation and communication facilities, making it easily accessible throughout the region. The Center will eventually sponsor programs in all the countries of Southeastern Europe, including Cyprus, where a program on governance is planned, and Turkey, where a program on environmental issues will be established. The Center's programs are intended to be multinational in scope, bringing together participants from the several countries of the region.

The purpose of the Center's multinational approach is to foster greater interchange and understanding among the peoples of the area and to develop networks among individuals and groups committed to the democratic and peaceful development of Southeastern Europe.

Programs of the center

First, we intend to forge links with other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in the region to cooperate on specific projects and in some cases will establish offices in other countries to focus on a particular issue or theme. More broadly, the Center can be a forum to champion NGOs as essential components of a civil society, particularly important, of course, in Southeastern Europe

where such organizations are relatively new phenomena, especially in former state-controlled societies.

We want also to support development of a lively, responsible and independent press, again free of state control.

The Center plans to support projects on the writing of school textbooks and improving pedagogy at all levels in the countries of Southeastern Europe.

The Center will also address concerns of parliamentary and local governments and we hope to sponsor exchanges of parliamentarians.

Economic development clearly offers opportunities for regional cooperation and interchange. Independent business associations can be an integral part of a vibrant civil society.

Environmental challenges also open doors for cooperative endeavors throughout the region. Indeed, while in Istanbul last month, Matthew Nimetz and I called on His Holiness, Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, who told us that he will shortly be leading an effort to deal with environmental problems in the Black Sea, an initiative that will involve Turkish government officials and business leaders as well.

CONCLUSION

I have told you of my own involvement in Cyprus as a Member of the United States Congress and of my continuing interest in improving relations between Greece and Turkey.

I have offered a list of what seems to me to be some of the factors essential to success in the on-going search for a just and enduring settlement of a problem—the tragedy of a divided Cyprus—that should affront the consciences of all who live in civilized, democratic societies.

I have expressed gratification that the United States is now moving toward much more intensive involvement in the issue.

And I have told you of an effort, in the form of the Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeastern Europe, that although modest at the outset, can, in time, in a troubled part of the world, sow seeds of hope rather than despair.

How splendid it would be if, even before the start of the next millennium, we can see a united Republic of Cyprus, in which all its citizens enjoy the fruits of freedom, democracy and the rule of law!

THE 39TH OBSERVANCE OF CAPTIVE NATIONS WEEK

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of personal conviction and pride that I submit for the RECORD an authoritative proclamation on Captive Nations Week, the 39th Observance, based on Public Law 86-90 and reflected in proclamations and observances of States and cities across our Nation this past third full week of July, 20-26.

In personal conviction, I am fully convinced that P.L. 86-90—which is uniquely vindicated by the historic changes these past 8 years in Central/East Europe, Central Asia, Africa, and Central America—will be completely vindicated as freedom forces in the world's democracies concentrate on the remaining captive nations under Communist party dictatorships in the People's Republic of China, Vietnam, Laos, North Korea, and Cuba. Unresolved issues

also remain in the Russian Federation, to mention Chechnia as only one example.

In humble pride, it is a source of satisfaction that I have been playing a role in this nearly 40-year tradition begun by the 86th Congress and President Eisenhower and indelibly imprinted in our history by President Reagan and the "evil empire" concept. In short, for our own well-being and peace, a tradition of America's dedication to expressive freedom, democracy, free market economy, human rights, national independence, and the surcease of empires and imperial "spheres of influence".

Definitely certain that all who commemorated this 39th observance share these convictions and civic pride, I deem it an honor to submit the proclamation and the list of its distinguished supporters:

CAPTIVE NATIONS WEEK PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the Captive Nations Week Resolution, which Congress passed in 1959 and President Eisenhower signed into Public Law 86-90, has been proclaimed by every president since, with identical support by Governors and Mayors across our Nation; and

Whereas, reflecting the foresight of that Congress and supports, Public Law 86-90 has been uniquely vindicated by the demise of the Soviet Union and the liberation of the most captive nations in Central and East Europe, Central Asia, Africa, and Central America; and

Whereas, in the total picture and for our national interest, it is imperative to recognize the reality of numerous other captive nations still remaining under totalitarian, communist party dictatorship and the residual Russian Federation structure of imperial control: among others, Mainland China, North Korea, Vietnam, Cuba, Idel-Ural (Tatarstan), Chechnia, the Far Eastern Republic; and

Whereas, like the former USSR and with a long record of massive human rights violations, the People's Republic of China is in essence an empire under communist party rule, consisting of the Chinese, Tibetan, divided Turkestan, and Inner Mongolian captive nations; and

Whereas, with its own unresolved cases of non-Russian and Siberyak self determination drivers, the Russian Federation, centered in Moscow, continues to strive imperially for a "sphere of influence" in eastern Europe, causing former captive nations like Poland, Lithuania, geopolitical strategic Ukraine, and others to seek their preserved independence and full integration in a free Europe through our assistance in the forms of NATO, aid, and investment; and

Whereas, in the true spirit that crucial foreign issues are not foreign to our world leadership, economic well-being, and even American lives, Congress by unanimous vote passed P.L. 86-90, establishing the third full week in July each year as "Captive Nations Week," and inviting our people to observe in that true spirit the week with appropriate prayers, ceremonies, and activities in support of the just aspirations of the still remaining captive nations and the preservation of the freedom of the former captive nations,

Received as of today, July 25, 1997 the following Governors and Mayors have issued proclamations of the week: The Hon. Paris N. Glendening of Maryland; The Hon. Fife Symington of Arizona; The Hon. Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey; The Hon. John Engler of Michigan; The Hon. George Allen of Virginia; The Hon. Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin; The Hon. Frank O'Bannon of Indiana; The Hon. Frank Keating of Oklahoma; The Hon. Lawton Chiles of Florida; The Hon. Terry E. Brandstad of Iowa; The Hon. Bob

Miller of Nevada; The Hon. Lincoln Almond of Rhode Island; The Hon. Mel Carnahan of Missouri; The Hon. Gary E. Johnson of New Mexico; the Hon. Pete Wilson of California; The Hon. Zell Miller of Georgia; The Hon. William Weld of Massachusetts; The Hon. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania and the Mayors; Rudolph Giuliani of New York; Richard Reardon of Los Angeles; and Edward Rendell of Philadelphia.

CUTS IN MEDICARE

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, hundreds of my constituents have contacted me about the severe cuts in Medicare reimbursement for home oxygen therapy. As the House and Senate conferees deliberate over the extent of these cuts, I would like them to consider the lives of seniors receiving home oxygen services. The following letter was given to me by Laurie Keiper of Springfield, OR.

TO CONGRESS AND THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES: I am an oxygen home therapy patient on 3-4 liters, 24 hours each day. I am a wife of a research vessel boatswain mate who is not home every night. He is gone most of the summer and fall.

I am a care giver also, taking care of my grandson, most of his 14 years. He will be starting 9th grade in the fall.

Without oxygen, I can not take care of my grandson, do for my family, or take care of myself. Instead you will pay more for child care, hospital and for nursing facility care. Most likely my 5 years of life expectancy will be shortened to 2 to 3 years or less. Oxygen is 1 percent of the total medicare budget. If you cut it by 40 percent what will it cost you?

40 percent increase in hospital stays.

40 percent increase in dependent payments, especially without parental guidance look at all the options—drugs, alcohol, runaways etc.

40 percent increase in home health and/or nursing facility payments.

40 percent increase in death benefit burial payments.

It does not seem fiscally prudent to make this cut. Look for fake bills, bad doctors, people who aren't supposed to be on Medicare. When someone says they question a bill—follow up on it. Cut cost that way!

LAURIE KEIPER.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S.S. "INDIANAPOLIS"

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a brief moment to personally pay tribute to those who served so selflessly aboard the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*. A reunion was held in Indianapolis this weekend for those veterans who served on the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*, a heavy cruiser sunk by enemy torpedo on July 30, 1945.

My pride and admiration, for the service of these men know no bounds.

I am proud to report that I have been honored with appointment to the Veterans' Affairs

Committee of Congress, an opportunity to be of special service to those who sacrificed so much for our Nation. In that work I find regular occasion to remember and to admire our citizen veterans and to help secure to them full measure of our Nation's respect for their contributions in time of peace and in the horror that is war.

I am prouder still to join my voice with those who spoke to honor the men who served with such valor aboard the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*—those with us still and those lost in the Pacific vastness somewhere west of Guam. For their service and sacrifice in the highest tradition of our country, our respect must be eternal.

MEDICARE REFORM PROPOSAL

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, this year Congress is faced with one of its toughest challenges yet. A program that for three decades has helped pay the medical bills for America's senior citizens is in drastic need of reform. Credited with alleviating the problem of the uninsured senior citizens and reducing the health problems of the disabled, Medicare is now in need of a major overhaul if it is to continue providing for seniors.

We are working hard to ensure that Medicare remains viable for present and future beneficiaries. By addressing the impending bankruptcy of this program now, we will be able to strengthen and improve it while expanding benefits for all participants. Through a combination of savings and structural reforms, the Republican plan to reform our health care program will extend the solvency of the Medicare trust fund for at least 10 years.

The House Medicare proposal increases the choices available to Medicare beneficiaries, so that they can select from among the same kinds of health plan options that are available to the rest of the population. The plan calls for new systems of payment to address the problems in areas where the growth in costs is unsustainable. Finally, our proposal achieves savings by restraining future increases in costs, while also providing important new preventive care benefits.

I am proud of the progress we have made toward reforming Medicare. I firmly believe that Medicare can be preserved, protected, and improved without jeopardizing health care for the most vulnerable populations, and I am confident that together we can make this goal a reality.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM N. KEMP

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of William N. Kemp, who passed away on July 15, 1997, in Houston, TX. Dr. Kemp was a self-employed optometrist for 41 years in the North Shore area of Houston and was the founder of the firm Drs. Kemp and Peterson, Optometrist. He was past president of both the Harris County Optometric Society and the Texas Optometric Association.